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ACCESSIONS TO MAP-ROOM.—A Map of Metropolitan Railways and Improvements. A Map of the Thames Embankment and proposed New Streets. Presented by E. Stanford, Esq.

The CHAIRMAN said, before the Secretary read the papers he had an important communication to make, which had been entrusted to him by the President of the Society, whose absence that evening he regretted. It had reference to the search which it is proposed to institute for further traces of that gallant and distinguished explorer, Dr. Leichhardt, or for remains of his expedition. The first journey of this great traveller, for which he received the Gold Medal of the Society, was undertaken from the then nascent colony of Moreton Bay, now called Queensland, towards Port Essington. Subsequently, in 1848, he undertook the colossal geographical exploit of traversing the whole of the Australian continent from east to west—from Queensland to Swan River. From his very first start on that expedition down to a very recent time, no trace whatever has been found of him. The present project of search had originated in consequence of certain discoveries which had been made by Mr. McIntyre, who, in traversing the continent in search of pastoral lands from south to north, had lighted upon two marked trees on the banks of the Flinders River, which had given rise to the idea that the search for Leichhardt would not be a hopeless undertaking. The proposal has been taken up by three of the Australian colonies in a national sense, and each colony has subscribed in the most munificent manner towards the expedition. The project of search has been received in a similar way, nationally, to that with which we took up the search for Sir John Franklin. By an unanimous resolution the Council of the Royal Geographical Society have subscribed 200*l.* out of its funds in order to assist. This expedition has already started from Melbourne, under the leadership of Mr. McIntyre, who, from his previous experience in Australia and his general ability, if any man in the world can do it, seems to be the man who would lead it to a successful termination. The President, Sir Roderick Murchison, is most warmly interested in the matter, and had desired him to announce that a public subscription would shortly be opened at the Society's rooms, and also at Messrs. Coutts, and Messrs. Cocks and Biddulph, bankers.

The following papers were read :—

1. *Description of the District of Cape York, Australia.* By JOHN JARDINE, Esq., Police Magistrate, Somerset, Cape York.

THIS paper was a detailed description of the neighbourhood of Somerset, the new settlement at Cape York, built on the shores of the channel which separates York Peninsula from Albany Island in Torres Straits. The peninsula proper is a tract of land about 15 miles in length, separated from the rest of the mainland by Kennedy River, which stretches nearly across the neck of land between Newcastle Bay and the western coast. The land is hilly, and in the valleys the soil is a reddish loam, more or less sandy; but on the ridges luxuriant vegetation and beautiful flowers cover the large blocks of ferruginous sandstone. Very little of the land is suitable for agriculture; the grass is long and coarse; horses and cattle keep their condition fairly, but the country is quite unsuited to sheep; goats may be kept with advantage, and pigs find an

abundant supply of food in the scrubs and swamps. The climate is dry for eight months of the year; the rainy season lasts from December to March inclusive, and this is the hot season, the thermometer reaching sometimes 98° in the shade. But, during the dry season, a fresh bracing breeze from the south-west blows almost continually, and the thermometer averages during the day from 80° to 85° . The climate is perfectly healthy; there is no local malady, even in the wet season, and the author considers that the new settlement will hereafter become a sanatorium for invalids from India and China. The author gave also a most interesting description of the aborigines, of which four distinct tribes inhabit the district.

The paper will be printed entire in vol. xxxvi. of the 'Journal.'

2. *Explorations in North-Western Australia.* By JAMES MARTIN, Esq., M.B.

The chief geographical interest of this paper referred to the discovery and exploration of the mouth of the Glenelg River, by the party of which Mr. Martin was a member. The River Glenelg was discovered so long ago as 1838, by Captain (now Sir George) Grey and Lieutenant Lushington, and an attractive account of the region was given in the 'Journals of Discovery in North-West Australia,' afterwards published by Captain Grey. But neither of these explorers was able to reach the mouth of the river, nor had it been detected by our naval surveyors. The expedition to which Mr. Martin belonged was organised in 1863, by a committee of settlers in Western Australia, for the discovery of new pastoral lands in the tropical portion of the colony; and the party, consisting of four explorers, set sail in the schooner *Flying Foam*. It was not until many vain attempts and much delay, that the schooner succeeded in finding the mouth of the Glenelg, in the place where it was supposed to lie—namely, in Doubtful Bay. The difficult entrance from the sea led into a large expanse of waters (called "George"), all the channels out of which, landward, seemed to end in a passage choked up with mangroves. Land parties could, however, descry from the top of a neighbouring hill the river flowing towards the place, and the true mouth was, after six days' search, found in the north-eastern end of the George Water. The river for the first few miles flows through a rugged hilly country, and has many rocky islands in its channel. Its shores afterwards become flatter, but the navigation was difficult, owing to the great fall of the tide—28 feet—leaving the schooner aground always at low water. After